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South Pacific Islands

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Abstract

Suggested resources for the Penn Alumni Travel excursion to the South Pacific. See the Library Guide for this bibliographer [here](#).

Keywords

south pacific, islands, bibliography, penn, alumni, travel, readings, guidebooks

Comments

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Alumni Travel Reading List
South Pacific Islands

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Suggested Resources

History & Culture

Alexeyeff, Kalissa. *Dancing from the Heart: Movement, Gender, and Cook Islands Globalization*. University of Hawaii Press, 2009.

Alexeyeff demonstrates how dancing and expressive culture is central to the aesthetic, political, economic and moral lives of 21st Century Cook Islanders.

Kahn, Miriam. *Tahiti beyond the Postcard: Power, Place, and Everyday Life*. University of Washington Press, 2011.

A post-colonial perspective on the history of Tahiti and the lives of Tahitians. How has the mythological power of Tahitian paradise affected the present day realities of the island? This book is about the power of place.

Salmond, Anne. *Aphrodite's Island: the European Discovery of Tahiti*. University of California Press, 2010.

For another book with a similar perspective as the one above see this one.

Fiction

Frame, Janet. *Janet Frame: the Complete Autobiography*. Women's Press, 1990.

Frame is one of New Zealand's, and the English language's preeminent writers. Her autobiography is in the form of a trilogy and makes up an important part of her literary oeuvre. She is the author of eleven novels, four collections of short stories, a book of poetry, a young adult novel, and these three volumes (in this edition all in one) of autobiography. Frame was confined to a psychiatric hospital, and it was only the national recognition of her literary gifts that saved her from a scheduled lobotomy.

Frame, Janet. *Prize: Selected Short Stories*. Counterpoint, 2009.

Frame recounts some of her story in this collection.

Duff, Alan. *Once Were Warriors*. University of Hawaii Press, 1994.

Duff uses a stream of consciousness style narrative for this dark tale of the difficult conditions of poverty and deprivation for one Maori community in New Zealand. The publisher describes the novel as, "a frank and uncompromising portrayal of Maori in New Zealand society. It is a raw and powerful story in which everyone is a victim until the strength and vision of one woman transcends brutality and leads the way to a new life."

Hulme, Keri. *The Bone People: a Novel*. Louisiana State University Press, 1985.

Keri Hulme grew up in Christ Church in New Zealand's South Island with her parents who were of British, Nordic, and Maori heritage. Her first published book *The Bone People* won the prestigious Booker Prize. She was the first writer from New Zealand to achieve this honor. Hulme's work has been inspired by her dreams, and the mythology belonging to the Maori, Celtic, and Norse cultures.

Ihimaera, Witi Tame. *Whale Rider*. Harcourt, 2003.

This novel, made into a popular film in 2003, tells the story of Pai who, raised by her grandparents after the death of her mother and Pai's baby brother, takes on the role of the first born male in the family and rides the whale.

Nordhoff and Hall's *The Bounty Trilogy: Comprising the Three Volumes, Mutiny on the Bounty, Men against the Sea & Pitcairn's Island*. Boston: Little Brown, 1985.

Melville, Herman. *Typee: A Peep at Polynesian Life; Omoo: a Narrative of Adventures in the South Sea; Mardi and a Voyage Thither*.

All three of the Melville tales are available together as part of the Literary Classics of the United States series, 1982.

Travel and Exploration

Lummis, Trevor. *Pacific Paradises: the Discovery of Tahiti and Hawaii*. Stroud: Sutton Publishing, 2005.

The reports of Tahitian paradisiacal beauty and a colonial lifestyle unfettered by the strict mores of European society received mixed responses in 18th century Europe. In contrast, while Tahiti was colonized by those who were ready to share in the local way of life, Hawaii was colonized for trade and industry. This book compares the colonial pasts of these two Island cultures looking at the consequences for both the colonized and the colonizer.

Morrison, James. *Mutiny and Aftermath: James Morrison's Account of the Mutiny on the Bounty and the Island of Tahiti*. University of Hawaii Press, 2013.

Already read the novel? Then dip into this firsthand account of the events of the sea voyage of Captain Bligh and his crew as told by boatswain's mate James Morrison. Morrison was among the crew members who decided to settle in Tahiti. Although not a scientist by training, Morrison was a careful observer who had respect for the Islanders, which gives his narrative a unique perspective.

Scarr, Deryck. *The History of the Pacific Islands: Kingdoms of the Reefs*. Macmillan Co. of Australia, 1990.

This book is unique among those listed here in that it looks back to the earliest times, rather than focusing on exploration and colonization. Although in its survey of the story of humankind in the Pacific, the author brings the reader into the present times. Writing from the perspective of the peoples native to the Pacific Islands, Scarr relates the tales that native people told of their own history as well as the ways they incorporated Western ideas and practices into their day to day lives.

Whitty, Julia. *The Fragile Edge: Diving and Other Adventures in the South Pacific*. Houghton Mifflin, 2007. For a little present day adventure, documentary film maker Julia Whitty takes you beneath the waves to experience through her eyes, the varieties of underwater life and its fragile nature. Whitty is also an environmental journalist and blogger and author of a collection of short stories, *A Tortoise for the Queen of Tonga* (2002).